

## **BCBSND Switching to New Formulary in 2008**

On January 1, 2008, your Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota MedicareBlueRx plan will switch to a new formulary called the Ideal Formulary. Use of the new formulary will result in lower health insurance premiums due to reduced administrative expenses and greater rebates from drug manufacturers.

A total of 660 medications with therapeutic or chemical equivalents are being removed from the formulary. If you are currently taking a drug that is being removed from the formulary in 2008, you will receive a letter from MedicareBlueRx in a few weeks. The letter will explain the formulary change, outline the drug(s) you are currently taking and provide alternatives for that medication.

It is important that you review any changes with your doctor or pharmacist. They can prescribe a therapeutic equivalent that could reduce your out-of-pocket expense.

Current members will be “grandfathered” with their current prescriptions through 2008. New prescriptions obtained in 2008 must be in the Ideal Formulary or they will not be paid. The formulary appeals process will continue to be available to all members.

NDPERS Medicare retirees will receive notice of the formulary change and other important information in the coming weeks.